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quick facts on...

# Regulation Program

OCTOBER 2006

**The South Florida Water Management District** is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

**Our Mission** is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

## 2006 Key Accomplishments

- As part of the **Lake Okeechobee & Estuary Recovery Plan**, initiated one of the most progressive water quality and quantity permit rules in the country intended to reduce nutrient load from new development in Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie & Caloosahatchee watersheds
- Laid foundation for early FY07 "go live" date for Environmental Resource and Water Use e-Permitting

**T**he Regulation Program involves implementing the District's permitting authority under Ch. 373, Florida Statutes to regulate the management and storage of surface waters through Environmental Resource Permits (ERPs), the consumptive use of water through Water Use Permits, and the construction, repair and abandonment of wells through Water Well Construction Permits. Linked with the ERP program is implementation of the sovereign submerged lands authority delegated to the South Florida Water Management District by the Governor and Cabinet, sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

Environmental Resource Permits ensure that proposed surface water management systems, including wetland dredging or filling, do not cause adverse water quality, water quantity or environmental impacts. Water Use Permits ensure that proposed uses are reasonable-beneficial, will not interfere with any presently existing legal users, and are consistent with the public interest. Water Well Construction Permits ensure that groundwater resources are protected from contamination as a result of well construction activities.

## Program Goal

**To provide fair, consistent and timely review of permit applications in accordance with the adopted rules and criteria of the District, ensure compliance with issued permits, and take enforcement action where necessary**



*The Regulation Program regulates ground and surface water withdrawals by major users such as golf courses.*



*Environmental Resource Permits – or ERPs – ensure that proposed surface water management systems, including wetland dredging or filling, do not cause adverse water quality, water quantity or environmental impacts.*



## Strategies

- Implement regulatory recommendations of the District's Water Supply Plans, including consideration of reservations, Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) and Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)/Water Use Permit consistency
- Implement "e-Permitting" and electronic document management to increase efficiency of application submittal and review, information sharing, and management of permit and construction certification records
- Maintain an active enforcement program to ensure violators do not have an advantage over permit applicants who follow the rules
- Provide regulatory support and input for other District programs and modify regulations as needed to ensure consistency with CERP and the District's water resource objectives
- Improve service to the regulated community through enhanced regulatory functions at the District's Service Centers
- Complete Rule Development and implement the Southwest Florida Water Quality Basin Rule

## Success Indicators

- Timely evaluation and review of permit applications consistent with adopted rules and criteria
- Basin renewals implemented on schedule
- Construction certifications kept current and backlog reduced by 10 percent per year
- 2,300 Environmental Resource Permit applications reviewed each year
- 1,900 Water Use Permit applications reviewed each year
- 8,500 post-permit compliance inspections conducted each year identifying both environmental and construction inspections and percentage that are in compliance
- Identify - Total acres reviewed pursuant to ERP
  - Total wetland acres permitted to be impacted
  - Total wetland acres preserved
  - Total wetland acres created/restored
  - Total wetland acres enhanced
  - Total acres of upland compensation
  - Total number of mitigation bank credits purchased



*In addition to ERPs, the Regulation Program regulates the management and storage of the consumptive use of water through Water Use Permits, and the construction, repair and abandonment of wells through Water Well Construction Permits.*



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**South Florida Water Management District**  
**3301 Gun Club Road**  
**West Palm Beach, Florida 33406**  
**561-686-8800 • FL WATS 800-432-2045**  
**www.sfwmd.gov**

**MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680**  
**West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680**

### SERVICE CENTERS

Big Cypress Basin/Naples  
 239-597-1505  
 Broward  
 954-713-3200  
 Florida Keys (Plantation Key)  
 305-853-3219 or 800-464-5067  
 Lower West Coast  
 239-338-2929 or 800-248-1201

Martin/St. Lucie  
 772-223-2600 or 800-250-4100  
 Miami-Dade  
 305-377-7274 or 800-250-4300  
 Okeechobee  
 863-462-5260 or 800-250-4200  
 Orlando  
 407-858-6100 or 800-250-4250  
 Palm Beach County  
 561-682-2283 or 800-432-2045